

# Volunteering for students & young people in Harrogate District

email: [volunteer@hadca.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@hadca.org.uk)  
[www.hadca.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.hadca.org.uk/volunteer)

**Free**  
Please  
take one



**H&DCA**  
Harrogate and District  
Community Action



# Have you ever thought about volunteering?

There are hundreds of organisations in the Harrogate District which involve volunteers in their work. Different organisations have individual volunteer policies and so some may not be able to accept volunteers who are under 16 or under 18, for example This may be due to issues such as insurance or safeguarding of vulnerable individuals. However there are many opportunities in the Harrogate District which welcome young people and students as volunteers.

There are many reasons why people want to volunteer such as meeting new people, gaining experience for a CV, developing new interests, personal experience of a health condition or just to give something back to the local community.



## What to consider before volunteering?

Organisations are looking for volunteers who are reliable and can make and honour a commitment. So before you start looking for roles it worth considering:

- Whether you would like a short term volunteer role (e.g. helping at an event or volunteering each week for a month) or a long term volunteer role (e.g. committing to a couple of hours each week for a year).
- How much time you would like to give and what days of the week you are available.

## It is also worth thinking about what you would like to get out of volunteering?

Many people volunteer to gain experience or improve their existing skills. If you have a skill or an interest that you can offer to an organisation let them know about it, for example you may be studying photography, have an interest in music, a passion for working with older people or want to become a vet.

### “The Power of Ten” Challenge.

Complete 10 hours of volunteering in or around Ripon and as well as being part of a team feeling good and doing good, you’ll receive a certificate and badge. There are also awards and rewards for giving 20, 50 and an amazing 100 hours of your time!

Find out more at Ripon library, at your school or club or email us [powerof10@hadca.org.uk](mailto:powerof10@hadca.org.uk)



## What next?

Our Volunteering Directory makes it easy to search through a range of opportunities which are in your area and meet your interests and availability. The Directory is free for anyone to search. If you find a volunteer role of interest you can make an enquiry online and someone from the charity will get in touch with you. It is worth noting that many Volunteer Organisers are part time and so it may take them a while to get back to you.

## Will I need to fill in any forms or attend an interview?

Some organisations will ask you to complete an application form. Application forms may ask for your contact details and some basic information about skills or experiences which might be useful. You may also be asked to provide a couple of references, for example from a teacher or lecturer.

Most organisations will ask you to come in for an informal chat before you start volunteering. This is not a formal interview like a job interview and you are under no obligation to volunteer after meeting with an organisation if you decide it's not for you.

Some roles may require you to have a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Check, for example if you are working with vulnerable people or children. This can take a few weeks. If a role requires a DBS check is it advisable to apply a month or more in advance of when you want to start volunteering.

**Happy Volunteering!**



## The Value of Volunteering

- Develop your skills, confidence, understanding and aspirations!
- Gain valuable experience of working with a range of people, whom you otherwise may never have met!
- Become involved in making a positive difference in your local community
- When added to your CV the experience could make the difference when you apply for your dream job!
- Access interesting training opportunities and receive your expenses
- Make new friends and have fun!

*"I've enjoyed coming into contact with people from my local community of varying ages and backgrounds. I have felt a sense of personal achievement as well as improving different skills. Any sort of volunteering is worth your time and effort. It is good to realise when you are young how much of an influence and sense of purpose you can feel if you get involved with your local community."*

**Rebecca, a HELP volunteer**

## Some volunteering opportunities for under 18's

A recent study by the Royal Voluntary Service explores the potential of volunteering to improve life chances.

The report found that out of 1,000 volunteers aged between 16 and 65, more than half credited volunteering with improving their job prospects. This rose to 73 per cent among 16 to 19-year-olds. More than a third of volunteers aged 16-19 said that volunteering helped them get their first job. So what are you waiting for?!

**What do you enjoy? What causes do you support?**

**Would you like to volunteer with friends? Try a taster session?**

**Try something different. Learn new skills. Some ideas....**

- Help in a charity shop or café which supports a cause you care about and learn retail skills
- Join weekly crafts based activity sessions for adults with disabilities / learning differences
- Join the Summer Reading Challenge at your local library and develop a love of reading in children
- Become a befriender or buddy
- Help a charity or community group with fundraising ideas or social media skills
- Be active outdoors with a team tree planting, doing conservation work, gardening or litter picking.

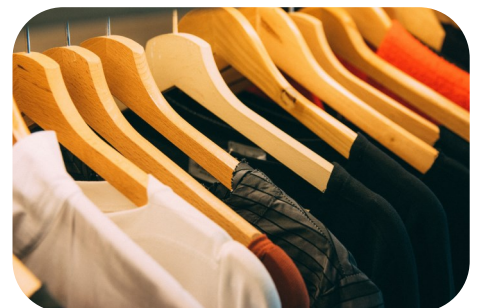


### Volunteering Opportunities in Charity Shops

Friendly teams across Harrogate district would love to hear from you!

Whether you're a 'people-person' who would enjoy greeting and serving customers, or you're more suited to a behind-the-scenes role, where you would sort and prepare donations, there are opportunities listed in the Directory to get involved!

Training and support is given for your role and it will give you valuable retail experience. You will be helping to raise vital funds for a good cause which may be important to you. In some roles you will be able to use your interest and knowledge of music, books and fashion.



### Ripon Museums Trust

Ripon Museum Trust runs 3 museums in Ripon the Old Workhouse, the Police Museum and the Courthouse Museum. Young people can get involved and learn new skills such as customer care, handling artefacts or researching history in a number of different volunteer roles.

## Some volunteering opportunities for under 18's

### Artizan International

Do you enjoy working with people and making things - then you could join weekly crafts based activity sessions for adults with disabilities / learning differences. You will be shown exactly what is needed and there is a qualified craft instructor at each session.



Artizan International and their lovely Shop, Café and Creative Space in the centre of Harrogate also have a wide variety of other volunteering opportunities for all ages where you can learn and share many different skills. These include Café front of house; Kitchen food prep and baking; Craft Assistant; Fair Trade Shop and Order Packing; Finishing products/sewing; Admin Support; DIY & maintenance.

There are some great opportunities for young people 14+, including those taking part in the DoE Awards- for example gaining experience volunteering in the busy Harrogate town centre café or supporting the shop manager serving customers, finishing products, restocking the shop and keeping it clean and tidy on a Saturday.



### Summer Reading Challenge and Library volunteering

It is more important than ever to encourage primary aged children to call in to collect their books and challenge pack and to enjoy reading for pleasure again. Local libraries would love to hear from young people aged 13 and over who would like to volunteer to help with this.

Young volunteers help children to choose fun books, get involved with planning and delivering children's events and writing competitions, help people to get online and much more.

It's a great opportunity if you enjoy reading and love books. Training and support is given and volunteering can be done in a flexible way around other interests and commitments.



## Some volunteering opportunities for under 18's

### National Trust Fountains Abbey and the Skell Valley Project

Enjoy being outdoors in the fresh air? Like working as part of a team? Want to help nature thrive and for everybody to be able to enjoy our lovely landscape and heritage? There are lots of opportunities to be involved. The Skell EcoAction Group is a new conservation group for 14-20 year olds working across sites around Ripon on Saturdays.



### Ripon YMCA

Ripon YMCA Young Leaders is a friendly group of 12-18 year olds who help in their community. This could be organising things for young people to do in and around Ripon, supporting local events or any other opportunities which are fun!



### Harrogate Hospital and Community Charity

Volunteers over the age of 16 play a vital role in the everyday operation of the hospital and in the community. They help with fundraising, supporting big events, undertaking administrative tasks, helping people to find their way around the hospital, supporting the chaplaincy, cancer services, outpatient clinics and improving the atmosphere in public areas.

### Follifoot Park Disabled Riders Group

Volunteers (aged 15+) help riders enjoy their experience safely and securely. Your role could include helping riders to mount and dismount and walking alongside during the rides, to leading the horses or helping to tack and untack them. Experience with horses is not needed as full training is given, with experienced leaders supervising each ride.

If you would prefer not to work with live horses then your help would be welcome with disabled people who ride STORM the mechanical horse.



## Already turned 18?

Then the opportunities are endless! Our online searchable Volunteering Directory has many roles in the Harrogate District, and we share more opportunities on social media too.

Visit [www.hadca.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.hadca.org.uk/volunteer)



**Top Tips To Prepare For  
Volunteering**



- WORK OUT HOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET THERE AND HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE**
- BE ON TIME**
- READ ABOUT THE ORGANISATION AND BE CLEAR ABOUT WHAT THEY DO.**
- PLAN WHAT YOU WILL WEAR, IS IT SUITABLE FOR THE WORK?**
- COMPLETE ANY PAPERWORK THEY MAY HAVE PROVIDED AND TAKE IT WITH YOU .**
- KNOW WHO YOU HAVE TO REPORT TO WHEN YOU ARRIVE**
- LISTEN**
- ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS**
- BE HONEST**
- USE YOUR INITIATIVE AND SKILLS**
- BE OPEN AND ENJOY LEARNING NEW THINGS**
- LISTEN TO CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK ON YOUR WORK AND ASK FOR HELP**
- INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO PEOPLE**
- SMILE, HAVE FUN, AND BELIEVE IN YOURSELF**
- REMEMBER EVERYONE HAS STARTED FROM WHERE YOU ARE NOW.**



**YOU  
GOT  
THIS!**





Harrogate and District  
Community Action

Harrogate & District Community Action is an independent local charity supporting and promoting volunteering in the community.



*“Being part of Squigglers meant so much to me. Not only was it great fun and a really lovely open and accepting environment, but over the time I spent volunteering I grew so much and developed a confidence that I didn't have before and that I still carry with me now. It opened up a new world to me and I looked forward to it each week.”*



[volunteer@hadca.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@hadca.org.uk)



[/VolunteerHADCA](https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerHADCA)



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## Volunteering Directory

Browse a wide range of opportunities and search by interest area, age, availability, wheelchair access and location.

[www.hadca.org.uk/Volunteer](http://www.hadca.org.uk/Volunteer)

## Where to Turn

This free online directory makes it easy to access up to date information about hundreds of community activities and services.

[www.hadca.org.uk/Wheretoturn](http://www.hadca.org.uk/Wheretoturn)

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